

THE 2004 BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

The ACLA Bulletin appears once a year in the
Summer Issue of *Comparative Literature*

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**LETTER FROM THE ACLA PRESIDENT,
MARGARET HIGONNET**

Dear Colleagues,

In this bulletin, we remember several major comparatists who have died in the past year. As Haun Saussy wraps up the next of our ten-year Reports on the Discipline, it is a fitting moment to recognize figures whose contributions have shaped our current work, including Thomas Greene, who wrote one of the early reports, and Haskell Block, one of our early presidents. Haun's report, available on the web (see the link at www.acla.org), points us toward the future as well. Many have already responded to the posted papers, and one of our panels at the MLA in Philadelphia will offer a forum for further public debate.

Turning toward the future, the ACLA Board decided this year to build up our endowment, in order to ensure our continued support for graduate student travel to the annual conference and for other awards such as the Charles Bernheimer Prize. Elaine Martin and Elizabeth Richmond-Garza have been instrumental in establishing an investment fund, beginning with a memorial contribution from the sister of Charles Bernheimer. To date, we have paid for travel and prize-related expenses out of the small margin generated by our conferences. This year, for the first time, we made an appeal to present and past members of the board, and we are pleased to report their strong response. We hope the membership will also want to support either travel costs or our prize awards. I will be writing you, cap in hand, welcoming small as well as larger contributions to increase an endowment currently about one-twentieth that of comparable learned societies. As you know, if a majority of us contribute, national foundations are more likely to consider helping us as well.

The success of our annual conferences testifies to the intellectual strength of the organization that these tax-deductible gifts will support. This year's meeting at Ann Arbor on "Global Networks," ably hosted by Tobin Siebers, won uniformly enthusiastic responses to panels on a wide variety of topics such as translation, word and image, meter, Arabic literature, and the material culture of collecting. Excellent participants found the extended workshop format intense and stimulating. Sunny and spring-like, Ann Arbor felt like San Marcos to many of us from the chilly zones—minus the aquatic activities. For the first time in my memory, a reading of poetry held us enthralled at the banquet.

We were pleased that ten percent of the panelists came from abroad, in spite of impediments to travel in recent years. Visa difficulties continue to inhibit participation of colleagues from other nations and complicate the return of international students to their studies at the beginning of term. New legislation hinders editorial work on journals and collaborative books by obstructing or even censoring contributions from countries considered politically sensitive.

As Arjun Appadurai suggested in his plenary speech, “global networks” is a phrase with embedded tensions. It suggests optimism about international collaboration as well as fear of conspiracy. The term may remind us of terrorism, of the power of the internet to voice the concerns of the weak, or of the increasingly pyramidal structures of publishing and other media that have created a crisis for our libraries. Many of these themes cropped up at the conference: the phrase set a general context for thinking across linguistic, national, and disciplinary boundaries. They will undoubtedly continue to find expression in next year’s conference, which will take place at Pennsylvania State University College Park, hosted by Carey Eckhardt. Further information about the conference can be found through the link at our website: www.acla.org.

Several ongoing publication projects will, I think, be of interest to the membership. As announced earlier, David Damrosch is editing a volume on “Approaches to Teaching World Literature” for the MLA “Approaches” series. The MLA Publications Committee has also launched a new series, “World Literatures Reimagined,” aimed specifically at comparatists. Books in this series will consider particular literatures in an international context, addressing, for example, emergent literatures, less-taught literatures of central and eastern Europe, or literatures of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Guidelines are available at the MLA web site (www.mla.org). We hope that members will seize this opportunity to bring a comparative perspective to the MLA’s publication series.

Also of interest to us is the e-book history series published by the American Council of Learned Societies. The electronic medium is a perfect medium for literary histories with an eye to the interrelationships between word and image, such as studies of emblem poetry, the romantic culture of ruins, or the typographical play of avant-garde printing. Although the idea of such comparison goes back to the ancients, the availability of this new medium is encouraging scholars to write new kinds of books.

Finally, a personal word about the politics of language acquisition, whose pertinence to our field is self-evident. A new map showing language distribution in the United States, available at the MLA web site, offers encouraging evidence that many children master two or more languages because their home language is not English. I suggest that we comparatists capitalize on this evidence. Several years ago a colleague gave me a pin resembling a no-smoking sign, with a slash through the word *monolingualism*. Many of us complain that most college students are monolingual. We could make plurilingualism a national goal of education in America. A holistic perspective readily connects the scholarship and teaching most of us do at the college or university level to the early development of language skills. It is in the early years that languages can most easily be learned, and the mastery of a second language makes that of a third even easier. Furthermore, there is considerable evidence that those taught the grammar of other languages learn better English.

The underlying principle of linguistic human rights, developed in European law, protects immigrants’ right to retain (and master) their mother tongue, and at the same time their right to preserve the cultures embedded in “heritage languages.” If applied in America, this principle would lead our educational systems

to recognize and protect the language skills that children bring to their schools. The distinctive multicultural identity of America could become one of our great strengths. European languages and literatures have held an elite status in our field, one renewed by waves of immigration. We may now need to reflect on new maps of comparison whose points of reference may be Amharic or Arabic. We will be the richer for it: the world lies all before us.

Cordially yours,
Margaret Higonnet, ACLA President

**LETTER FROM THE ADPCL PRESIDENT, CAROLINE ECKHARDT,
AND SECRETARY-TREASURER, CORINNE SCHEINER**

We are pleased to report on recent and upcoming projects of the Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature (ADPCL), the administrative group associated with the ACLA. We invite you to visit our website (<http://www.adpcl.org>).

During the past year, the ADPCL sponsored sessions at both the ACLA and the MLA. Our December 2003 MLA session addressed "The Crisis in Scholarly Publishing: Comparative Literature and the Smaller-Market Foreign Languages," with speakers representing a learned society (Pauline Yu, President of the American Council of Learned Societies), a university press (Mary Murrell, Senior Editor at Princeton University Press), and an academic department (Haun Saussy, Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature at Stanford). At the April 2004 ACLA meeting, we held an administrative meeting and, along with the ACLA's Graduate Caucus, co-sponsored a session on the job market, focusing on "Strategies for Finding (and Keeping) a Tenure-Track Job," with speakers Sabine Thuerwaechter (University of California-Riverside), Julie Stone Peters (Columbia University), and Corinne Scheiner (Colorado College).

For the December 2004 MLA meeting, the ADPCL is sponsoring a special session on "New Institutional Forms of Comparison," with speakers Katie Trumpener (Yale University), William Moebius (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (Columbia University).

For the March 2005 ACLA meeting, the ADPCL plans to present the results of a survey about the ways in which departments and programs help prepare graduate students for the job market, and the kinds of jobs new and recent Ph.D.s have found (how many are officially in Comparative Literature? have joint appointments? etc.).

Aside from conference sessions, we are glad to report the following initiatives:

- (1) Starting with the September 2004 issue, *PMLA*'s directory listings will include a list of departments, programs, curricula, and other academic units housing Comparative Literature. The ADPCL has supplied the information for this list and will update it annually for the MLA.
- (2) The ADPCL will be submitting an application to the MLA for formal status as an Affiliated Association, as we believe we now meet the MLA's criteria in this regard.
- (3) We have encouraged the MLA to include Comparative Literature more fully in its new project to create an online directory of graduate programs in English and in Foreign Languages, and the MLA has indicated its willingness to do so.

- (4) To further strengthen our ties with the ACLA, we have proposed that the ADPCL have ongoing representation on the ACLA's Advisory Board, specifically that, "In view of close ties between the ACLA and the Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature (ADPCL), the ADPCL President (or another representative designated by the ADPCL) is a member of the ACLA Advisory Board." This proposal will be acted on by the ACLA during the coming year.
- (5) Looking forward, the ADPCL is embarking on a new project on the Undergraduate Curriculum. Initially planned as a June 2004 working conference, this project is now taking shape as a study leading to a "Report on the State of the Undergraduate Curriculum in Comparative Literature," a document to be based on earlier partial reports or drafts plus updated information, and to be discussed at a plenary session or stream planned for the 2005 ACLA meeting, and a session or forum to be submitted for the 2005 MLA meeting. Those interested in participating are invited to contact the organizers of this project, Corinne Scheiner (Colorado College, *cscheiner@ColoradoCollege.edu*) and Kathleen Komar (UCLA, *komar@ucla.edu*).

The ADPCL exists to serve the administrative interests of comparatists anywhere, whether you are in charge of fostering comparative literature within a program, department, or committee structure, or whether you are the only comparatist in your academic unit and are trying to create new comparative courses or in other ways give greater institutional visibility to our discipline. Let us know how we can be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Caroline D. Eckhardt
President, ADPCL
Penn State
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Corinne Scheiner
Secretary-Treasurer, ADPCL
Colorado College
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An Invitation to Join the ACLA

Why join the ACLA?

- We keep you informed about the latest developments in the discipline and the profession through our journal, *Comparative Literature*, the *ACLA Bulletin* (in the summer issue of *CL*), our website, and regular emails to the membership.
- Our annual meetings are collegial, intellectually stimulating, and rewarding. They combine intimate conversation within seminars with defining disciplinary presentations. In 2004 we met in Ann Arbor, and in 2005 we will meet at Pennsylvania State University. We also sponsor two panels and co-host a social event with the School of Criticism and Theory at the annual MLA meeting.
- Our website www.acla.org has been completely redesigned and is still being expanded to provide an up-to-date and dynamic virtual resource and meeting place for scholars and students in the field. We hope you will let us know at the Secretariat (info@acla.org) how we may enrich it and make it even more useful.
- ACLA members receive a subscription to *Comparative Literature* and membership in the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), which meets triennially in cities around the world. The 2003/2004 Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association will meet in Hong Kong in August 2004. Members may also join the Southern Comparative Literature Association (SCLA), which will meet at the University of South Carolina in September 2004, and receive *The Comparatist* at a reduced rate. Members may subscribe at reduced rates to additional comparative literature journals: *Comparative Literature Studies*, *World Literature Magazine*, *World Literature*, *Yearbook of Comparative & General Literature*, and *Symploké*.
- When you become a member you become a part of our database, which will assure that you receive timely email notification of important events, publications, and opportunities in the field, both in North America and elsewhere.
- When your department or program becomes an institutional member of the ACLA/ADPCL, you and your colleagues will help to define and support the discipline and will be able to nominate your students for the Bernheimer Award.
- The ACLA is defined by the commitment, intellectual energy, and scholarly distinction of its members. We need your presence, contribution, and support to continue to thrive and to become an ever more crucial voice in shaping our field and the humanities. We hope you will join us!

- I enclose _____ \$50 for a Regular/Faculty one-year membership
(includes ICLA membership)
- _____ \$25 for an emeritus, student, part-time, currently unemployed
(ACLA membership only)
- _____ \$35 emeritus, student, part-time, currently unemployed
(ACLA/ICLA joint membership)
- All memberships include a subscription to Comparative Literature.*
- _____ \$100 Institutional/Departmental membership
(includes ACLA and ADPCL membership)

Please make checks payable to ACLA and send to:

ACLA Secretariat, The University of Texas–Austin Program in Comparative Literature,
1 University Station B5003, Austin, TX 78712-0196

Questions? Contact us at info@acla.org or 512-471-8020.

MLA ANNUAL MEETING
December 2004, Philadelphia
ACLA SESSIONS

ACLA is sponsoring two panels at this year's MLA Convention in Philadelphia. If you will be attending the MLA in Philadelphia, we hope you will join us for these two comparative sessions as well as for our cash bar, shared with the School for Criticism and Theory. The topics, session organizers, and speakers are listed below. Please consult the MLA program for time and venues for all three of these ACLA-sponsored events.

Panel A.

**“Comparative Literature in an Age of Globalization:
Presenting the 2004 ACLA Report on the State of the Discipline”**

Presider: Haun Saussy, Yale University

1. Linda Hutcheon (University of Toronto): “Congenitally Contrarian”
2. Jonathan Culler (Cornell University): “The Triumph of Comparative Literature”
3. Zhang Longxi (City University of Hong Kong): “Penser d'un Dehors: Notes on the ACLA Report, 2004”

Panel B.

“Poetry and Interdisciplinarity”

Presider: Sandra Bermann, Princeton University

1. Marjorie Perloff (Stanford University): “Americanizing Aimé Césaire: ‘Cultural’ Poetics and the Dematerialized Text”
2. Carlos Alonso (University of Pennsylvania): “Poetry as Interpellation: Apostrophe in Nicolás Guillén”
3. Glenn Freeman (Cornell College): “Lyric Voice and Cultural Performance”
Respondent: Roland Greene (Stanford University)

We look forward to seeing you at both sessions.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:
ACLA ANNUAL MEETING 2005
“IMPERIALISMS—TEMPORAL, SPATIAL, FORMAL”
Pennsylvania State University
March 11-13, 2005**

Conference Website: <http://complit.la.psu.edu/2005-ACLA-Conference.htm>

(This is a preliminary informational website. The main website for the 2005 conference, including provision for the online submission of seminar proposals and individual papers, will be available shortly.)

You are invited to participate in the 2005 conference of the ACLA, to be hosted by the Department of Comparative Literature at the Pennsylvania State University on March 11-13 (Friday through Sunday), 2005. Sessions and papers on any topic within the broad range of comparative literary studies are welcome, in addition to presentations on the conference theme.

“Imperialisms” in relation to literature can be understood both literally and metaphorically, referring not only to the effect of political and cultural empires upon textual production, but also to the reign of favored paradigms and intellectual fashions in theory or criticism, the consequences of literary canons, or the predominance of particular genres and styles in specific places and periods.

Since ancient times there have been empires, and it could be argued that all human cultures can be considered imperial cultures, either as agents or as objects of imperial endeavors. Comparatists deal, in many different ways, with encounters between individual writers and texts that are positioned across demarcations, as well as with encounters among the human collectives brought into contact by imperial outreach at historical and spatial junctures (Bakhtin’s “zones of contact”). Further, comparatists continue to explore the manifestations of the historical unfolding of imperialisms, whose ambivalences at the start of the twenty-first century may be starker than ever.

Below are listed a few possible topics for seminars or individual papers related to this theme:

- Imperialism as metaphor: Why (or for how long, through what processes) has imperialism become a dominant metaphor for forms of cultural transmission, intersection, and resistance?
- Empire and classification: “empire” is related to “in parare”—to set in order, classify—and thereby to master or to rule. What is involved in the classificatory impulse of literary taxonomies and their hierarchies (the values associated with orality and literacy, prose and poetry, etc.) and fallacies?
- Empire and temporality: Why and where does the “empire” of the past, of traditions, myths, influences, or patrilinear genres, reign so forcefully in literary histories? Is that chronological dominance being rethought? Is presentism a gain or a loss? Is it new?

- Forms of resistance to empire: laughter, the carnivalesque, blow-back, mimicry, travel, discovery, and their objects. Under what conditions does the traveler resist empire, or promote it?
- The aftermath of imperialisms: if the Soviet Union was an empire (despite its official anti-colonial rhetoric), are postcolonial approaches relevant to the study of Ukrainian culture. Similarly, to what extent was England in the later Middle Ages a postcolonial culture? Are all cultures postcolonial?
- Disciplinary imperialism: How do we regard the competing (quasi? anti? all too?) imperial reach of Comparative Literature vis-à-vis language departments? of English departments versus the rest?

These topics are intended to provoke your own proposals for seminars or individual papers. Continuations of seminars from previous years may be proposed again. If you would like to organize a seminar on any topic, once the seminar proposal is accepted we will post your Call for Papers on the conference website to invite further participants.

Deadline for Seminar Proposals: September 10, 2004

Deadline for Individual Abstracts: October 15, 2004

Travel funds will be available for graduate students. See our graduate student page for information.

For further information or questions, please contact the ACLA 2005 chair:

Professor Caroline D. Eckhardt
Department of Comparative Literature
311 Burrowes Building
University Park, PA 16802

Phone: (814) 863-0589
Fax: (814) 863-8882
Conference email: acla-complit@psu.edu

Please note: Participants in the annual meeting (paper presenters and session chairs) must be current members of the ACLA. Membership forms can be found on our website.

MEMORIAL NOTICES 2003-04

HASKELL BLOCK

On November 7, 2003, the comparative literature community lost another of its American pioneers: Haskell M. Block. President of the ACLA for six years, Advisory Board member for four, member of the Advisory Board of the ICLA for four years, editor of the *Papers* of the first ACLA meeting, Haskell Block made his mark at the top of the Association's masthead. But it is as the good soldier that we most remember him, gamely journeying to ACLA meetings until his health failed. He delivered papers, presided over sessions, and when in the audience asked trenchant questions in his polite but booming voice. He was, in the truest sense of the word, a colleague. His many books and essays are testimony to his life-long devotion as a comparatist—from Mallarmé to world drama, from the symbolist movement to naturalism, from Joyce to Célan. During the last decade of his life he mined Harvard's Widener and the libraries of Europe researching the magnum opus he was sadly never to complete: a study of the German influence on the French Enlightenment.

On a personal note, he was a friend for decades from whom I learned much. I always found him jovial, generous, and ready with an anecdote about the many friends he treasured and kept close, like his books. We are the poorer without him, but were fortunate enough to be richer when he was amongst us.

Edward Engelberg, Professor Emeritus
Department of Comparative Literature
Brandeis University

THOMAS M. GREENE

Thomas M. Greene dedicated his first book, *The Descent from Heaven* published in 1963, to René Wellek, who is described in Tom's preface as "the most humane of masters and benefactors." That phrase—like Tom's later gesture of dedicating his book *The Vulnerable Text* to his student A. Bartlett Giamatti—dramatizes Tom's abiding interest in thinking about generational politics, and about the transmission of culture broadly construed, in a way that differs from, although it does not ignore, the dark stories about blocked transmission or mistranslation told by some of Greene's contemporaries, by some of his pedagogical sons and daughters, and by some of his literary precursors as well, among them Milton's Satan and Shakespeare's King Henry IV. Shakespeare's king chastizes his son Hal for failing in a filial duty defined as the son providing a perfect image of the father's own "noble youth." In the alternative story about imitation and transmission that Tom repeatedly offers us, oedipal economies, emotions and behaviors are abun-

dantly present, but they do not wholly block the arteries of that heterogeneous, sometimes monstrously gargantuan, body of texts and traditions that Tom took as his object of study. That object came in Tom's later years to include not only classical and Renaissance literary texts but also his own children's and grandchildren's letters, play-texts by New Haven high school students that he helped to direct, and writings by students and colleagues with whom he sometimes passionately disagreed. With all of his interlocutors, Tom engaged in ongoing dialogues about the possibilities, in theory and in practice, of a mode of imitation that would allow for difference as well as for the filial resemblance that Shakespeare's King Henry believes to be his due. "Renaissance imitation at its richest," Tom wrote in the chapter on "Historical Solitude" in *The Light in Troy*, "became a technique for creating etiological constructs, unblocking—within the fiction of the work—the blockages in transmission which created humanist pathos." Because Tom valued and sought to study both the blockages in cultural transmission and the "unblocking fictions," he would have relished attending this year's ACLA conference. I wish he could have been there—and I wish I too could have been there—to learn from the polyphonic discussion participants had about the "State of the Discipline" at the present time. Our discipline has lost a rich and wise voice with the death of Thomas M. Greene.

Professor Margaret Ferguson
Department of English
University of California at Davis

EARL MINER

When Earl Miner died on April 17, 2004, comparative literature lost one of its most devoted, innovative, and authoritative voices. Specializing in British seventeenth-century and Japanese literature, as well as comparative poetics, he served twice on the Advisory Board of the ACLA, and later as member of the Bureau and President of the ICLA. Earl's scholarship—close to fifty volumes—led to numerous honors and left his colleagues a remarkable legacy of translations, editions, and independently authored books. Among comparatists, he is best known for his *Comparative Poetics* (1990), where he concludes, "the great gain from intercultural comparative study is that it avoids taking the local for the universal, the momentary for the constant and, above all, the familiar for the inevitable." Earl's intellectual reach was matched by the friendships he and his wife Jinny forged with colleagues and students around the world. We remember with gratitude his wit, his brilliance, his sense of fair play, and his gift for seeing literary and cultural contrasts as a path to deeper connections.

Professors Sandra Bermann and Claudia Brodsky
Department of Comparative Literature
Princeton University

EDWARD W. SAID

Edward W. Said, who died September 24, 2003, most widely known as an eloquent and thought-provoking public intellectual, was also one of the leading comparatists in the academic world where he made his home. Born in Jerusalem in 1935, he was raised in Egypt and came to the United States for college and graduate school. He began teaching at Columbia in 1963, where he remained for the rest of his life, apart from several visiting professorships elsewhere. Following important early work on Conrad—a lifelong interest—he achieved wide scholarly acclaim for his socially grounded theoretical work *Beginnings* (1975), while also becoming actively involved in the Palestinian struggle for recognition and independence. Said's scholarly and political concerns joined together in works devoted to representations of Palestinians and of Arabs generally, in such works as *Covering Islam* (1980) and the beautiful *After the Last Sky* (1986). Part memoir, part meditation on a series of photographs, this book can be thought of as an example of interarts comparative work, as can *Musical Elaborations* (1991).

The most important of Said's works of cultural criticism was of course *Orientalism* (1979), which has had an epochal impact on contemporary literary scholarship, comparable in the postwar era to only a few works such as Auerbach's *Mimesis* (a favorite work of Said's, and the subject of one of his last essays), Frye's *Anatomy of Criticism*, or de Man's *Blindness and Insight*. Unlike those works, *Orientalism* had a wide nonacademic impact as well, and it and subsequent books such as *The World, the Text, and the Critic* (1983), *Culture and Imperialism* (1993), and his memoir *Out of Place* (1999) furthered his work as a leading public intellectual and scholar.

Said's extraordinary output as a writer didn't preclude his mentoring generations of students and taking on institutional roles as well: for many years he directed Columbia's Program in Comparative Literature, and he served a term as President of the Modern Language Association among many other roles. His exceptional vitality was such that no one who knew him could really accept that his decade-long struggle with cancer could have any result other than an ever-increasing series of talks, essays, books, and debates in the hall about Glenn Gould. Our field is richer for his life, and poorer for his death.

Professor David Damrosch
 Department of English and Comparative Literature
 Columbia University

RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ACLA ENDOWMENTS

The ACLA wishes gratefully to acknowledge the generous contributions made this year to our two endowments, the Charles Bernheimer and the ACLA endowments. These funds, which honor the year's outstanding dissertation and fund graduate student travel to the annual meeting of the ACLA, assure and enhance the future of the field of Comparative Literature through our graduate students. The ACLA would like especially to thank the family of Haskell Block for generously initiating, in memory of the contributions of Professor Block to our discipline, a third endowment, which will be devoted to supporting graduate student travel from abroad in order to attend the annual meeting and to participate fully in the scholarly life of the association.

Benefactors of the ACLA this year included: Mildred Barish, Rufus and Jane Blanshard, Howard Bloch, Arthur Collins, Jonathan Culler, Phyllis Citow, David Damrosch, Marlies Danziger, Caroline Eckhardt, William B. Ewald, Jr., Gail Finney, Margaret Higonnet, Kathleen Komar, Efrain Kristal, Françoise Lionnet, William Moebius, Beverly Olsberg, Michael Palencia-Roth, Marion Boyle Petrillo, Yopie Prins, Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Donald and Carol Root, Seth Rubenstein, William and Suzanne Samuels, Haun Saussy, Katie Trumpener, and Lois Zamora.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE PRIZES FOR 2004

The René Wellek Prize

The René Wellek Prize, given in alternate years with the Harry Levin Prize, is this country's most prestigious book award in the discipline of comparative literature. The Wellek Prize recognizes an outstanding work in the field of literary and cultural theory. Editions, collections of essays, and reference works are not eligible for these prizes. The 2004 Wellek Prize comprised books published in the triennium 2001-2003 and was presented at the ACLA Annual Meeting (University of Michigan—Ann Arbor) in April 2004.

The winner of the 2004 René Wellek prize was Barrett Watten (University of Indiana) for his book *The Constructivist Moment: From Material Text to Cultural Poetics* (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 2003). Honorable Mentions were also awarded to Margaret W. Ferguson, *Dido's Daughters: Literacy, Gender and Empire in Early Modern England and France* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2003) and Eric L. Santner, *On the Psychotheology of Everyday Life. Reflections on Freud and Rosenzweig* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2001). The Prize Committee for 2003-2004 was: Haun Saussy (Stanford University, chair), David Ferris (University of Colorado at Boulder), and Lois Zamora (University of Houston).

Announcing the 2005 Harry Levin Prize:

Books eligible for the Levin Prize in 2005 emphasize literary history or criticism as opposed to theory; in the spirit of comparative literature, they are engaged with more than one national literature or with issues of literary study in general. The 2005 Levin Prize will comprise books published in the triennium 2002-2004, and the award will be presented at the ACLA Annual Meeting at Penn State University in April 2005. Please consult the ACLA website for additional information about the competition at: <http://www.acla.org/levinandwellek.html>

The A. Owen Aldridge Prize

The A. Owen Aldridge prize is awarded to the best graduate student essay selected from a competition. *Comparative Literature Studies*, at the Pennsylvania State University Press, publishes this annual prize-paper. The winning article also carries a monetary prize. The purpose of this competition is to encourage and recognize excellence in scholarship among graduate students and to reward the highest achievement by publication. This project is sponsored by *Comparative Literature Studies* in cooperation with the ACLA and supported by the Department of Comparative Literature at Penn State.

The winner of the 2004 A. Owen Aldridge prize was Mariano Siskind (New York University) for his paper "Captain Cook and the Discovery of Antarctica's Modern Specificity: Towards a Critique of Globalization." The prize committee for 2003-04 was: Verena Conley (Harvard University), Gail Finney (University of California-Davis), and Susan Homar (Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto de Río Piedras).

Graduate students are encouraged to submit a polished paper in English, approximately 15-20 pages long (double-spaced), following the MLA Style Manual, and prepared for anonymous evaluation. The deadline for the 2005 Aldridge prize competition was July 1, 2004. Further information on the Aldridge prize can be found at: <http://www.acla.org/aldridge.html>

The Charles Bernheimer Prize

Each department or program in Comparative Literature in North America may nominate one dissertation completed during the current year (for the 2005 competition, a dissertation completed by September 1, 2004). The ACLA expects that the majority of dissertations nominated have been written by students enrolled in Comparative Literature, but a department or program may nominate a dissertation by a student enrolled in another program if it judges this the best dissertation in comparative literature of the year. The sponsoring department or program must be a current member of the ACLA.

The winner of the 2004 Bernheimer Prize was Stephanie Glaser (Indiana University, Ph.D. 2003) for her dissertation "Explorations of the Gothic Cathedral in Nineteenth-Century France." The prize committee for 2003-04 was: Michael Palencia-Roth (University of Illinois, Champagne, Urbana) and Sarah Lawall (Uni-

versity of Massachusetts, Amherst).

To nominate a dissertation for the Bernheimer Prize, please notify the ACLA secretariat at info@acla.org of your nomination and send copies of the dissertation directly to the judges. For the 2005 Bernheimer Prize, copies must reach the judges by November 15, 2004. Further information on the Bernheimer prize can be found at: <http://www.acla.org/bernheimer.html>

The Horst Frenz Prize

The Horst Frenz Prize is awarded to an outstanding paper presented by a graduate student at the annual meeting of the ACLA; the prize is awarded at the following year's conference. The Horst Frenz Prize consists of a \$250 gift certificate for books, a \$250 travel grant to attend the following ACLA Conference to receive the award in person, and publication of the essay in the *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*.

The winner of the 2003 Horst Frenz Prize was Sarah Casteel (Columbia University), for her paper "Joy Kogawa's Native Envy: New World Discourse in *Obasan* and *Itsuka*." The jury for the ACLA 2003 Conference at California State University, San Marcos was: Kathleen Komar (University of California, Los Angeles, chair), Kevin Larsen (University of Wyoming), and Miriam Cooke (Duke University).

Nominations of papers are encouraged from all ACLA members who participated in the annual meeting. The deadline for nominations was May 15, 2004. Nominations (including name, paper title, e-mail, etc.) should be sent to Kathleen Komar, komar@ucla.edu. Further information on the Frenz prize can be found at: <http://www.acla.org/frenz.html>

2004 RENÉ WELLEK CITATION

Barrett Watten, *The Constructivist Moment: From Material Text to Cultural Poetics* (Wesleyan University Press, 2003)

In his study of Constructivism, Barrett Watten examines the place occupied by the experimental imperative of radical literature and art within the broader context of a cultural poetics. From this study, the avant-garde emerges as a vitally necessary element in the exchange between social forces and aesthetic activity. Watten discovers this vitality in a negativity that constitutes the aesthetics of the material text. Through this negativity, Constructivism not only finds a place for its productions but at the same time offers, more generally, an incisive analysis of how the avant-garde constitutes itself as an experience of language at its limit. While remaining astutely aware of the important differences to which negativity has been submitted by Hegel, Heidegger, and Žižek, to name a few, Watten elaborates a theory of art that directly relates its openness to the work of the negative. This theorization of the avant-garde as art speaks importantly to the current critical situation in which theory, cultural study, and materialistic poetics are unavoidably engaged with one another.

2004 Honorable Mentions:

Margaret W. Ferguson, *Dido's Daughters: Literacy, Gender and Empire in Early Modern England and France* (Chicago University Press, 2003)

In her study of Western conceptions of literacy and literature, Margaret Ferguson surveys a vast territory that combines theoretical, historical, and cultural concerns. Her focus is on the gendered construction of literacy and the concomitant gendering of literature and literary education, beginning in the early modern period in England and France and continuing today in U.S. and European institutional structures. Ferguson's analysis leads surely to related discussions of social value that will illuminate cultural contexts far beyond those explicitly invoked in her study. *Dido's Daughters* combines theoretical speculation with assiduous historical, cultural, and textual analysis in ways that assure its relevance to not only scholars of the early modern period but all scholars engaged in the ongoing disciplinary and pedagogical practice of comparative literature and literary studies more generally.

Eric L. Santner, *On the Psychotheology of Everyday Life. Reflections on Freud and Rosenzweig* (Chicago University Press, 2001)

Eric Santner's *On the Psychotheology of Everyday Life* is an eloquent excursus on the phantasmic and deadening psychic defenses that are part and parcel of the overwhelming experience of wonder in this world even as they seek to ward against this experience. Bringing Freud and Rosenzweig together by identifying a chiastic connection between them—the presence of profoundly theological thinking in the author of the analytic concepts of the psychic defense and death drive, and the identification, by the theological thinker, of an excessive experience of the Other, the very symptoms of which compose the mechanisms of the psyche—Santner offers a new way of conceiving our being in the world that speaks directly to the best of both the psychoanalytic and theological traditions. In so doing he reconfirms the centrality of theoretical reflection in general to any understanding of self and other and the intimate and ineluctable relation that creates them.

David Ferris, University of Colorado at Boulder, Chair
René Wellek Committee
American Comparative Literature Association

Other Committee Members:
Claudia Brodsky, Princeton University
Lois Zamora, University of Houston

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
January 1, 2003-December 31, 2003

ACCOUNTS**2003 Conference in San Marcos**

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Balance Forward | \$ 0.00 |
| Expenses | \$ 0.00 |
| Income | \$14,218.02 |
| Final Balance | \$ 0.00 |

Highlander/Pershing Investment

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Balance Forward | \$45,214.00 |
| Expenses | \$ 0.00 |
| Income | \$ 958.00 |
| Final Balance | \$46,172.78 |

University of Texas Account

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Balance Forward | \$49,103.23 |
| Expenses | - \$33,143.28 |
| Income | \$52,019.88 |
| Final Balance | \$67,979.83 |

University of Texas Contribution

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Balance Forward | \$ 0.00 |
| Expenses | - \$36,469.00 |
| Income | \$36,469.00 |
| Final Balance | \$ 0.00 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Journal subscriptions | - \$11,160.60 |
| ICLA yearly payment | - \$ 5,300.00 |
| Prizes | \$ 0.00 |
| Membership fees/dues | - \$ 3,893.15 |
| Conferences | - \$ 1,360.44 |
| Travel & Misc. Reimbursements | - \$ 3,320.52 |
| Website | - \$ 530.65 |
| Student subsidies (travel grants) | - \$ 2,991.56 |
| Office expenses | - \$ 563.00 |
| Refunds/Returned checks | \$ 0.00 |
| Bank/Credit Card fees | - \$ 476.51 |
| Miscellaneous (summer interns) | - \$ 3,500.00 |

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Continued)
January 1, 2003-December 31, 2003

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | -\$ 33,096.43 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$ 52,977.88 |
| NET CHANGE | \$ 19,881.45 |
| | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | |
| Pershing Investment | \$ 46,172.78 |
| UT Account | \$ 67,979.83 |
| YEAR-END BALANCE | \$114,152.61 |
| INITIAL BALANCE | \$ 94,271.16 |
| NET CHANGE | \$ 19,881.45 |

Respectfully submitted by
Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Secretary-Treasurer
Kevin Carney, ACLA Administrative Assistant